

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A die insert for use in die insert confining grooves in slips for use in pipe string handling apparatus, the die insert comprising:-
 - a) said die insert blank having a front face with pipe gripping teeth and a generally parallel back face;
 - b) textured relief formed on the surface of the back face forming indicia, for forming and engaging impressions in the opposing surface of the confining slip, when forced against the opposing surface, to add skid resistance between the die insert and the opposing surface and to add an indicia imprint on the opposing surface.
2. (original) The die insert according to Claim 1 wherein said textured relief comprises a plurality of generally transverse relief patterns, the relief representing surface depressions of more than one one-thousandth inch.
3. (original) The die insert according to Claim 1 wherein said texture relief is achieved by a plurality of generally transverse scribe lines.
4. (previously presented) The die insert according to Claim 1 wherein said texture relief is achieved by a plurality of generally transverse scribe lines.

5. (Currently amended) A die insert for use in pipe sting handling apparatus having generally parallel first and second faces on opposite sides, said die insert comprising;

- a) said die insert with a first of the faces textured with projecting teeth for gripping pipe surfaces; and
- b) the second face textured with surface depressions forming indicia to reduce the surface area in contact with mating surface of die insert carrying slips such that more than a selected normal loading of the die insert will coin an impression of the indicia of the textured surface of the die insert into the mating surface of the related die insert carrying groove, for the purpose of reducing the tendency of the die insert to slide in the groove when the die insert is carrying a substantial payload.

6. (original) The die insert according to Claim 5 wherein said textured surface depressions are more than one one-thousandth of an inch deep.

7. (original) The die insert according to Claim 5 wherein said textured surface depressions comprise a plurality of generally transverse relief patterns, the relief representing a surface depression of more than one thousandth inch.

8. (original) The die insert according to Claim 5 wherein said textured surface depressions are achieved by a plurality of generally transverse scribe lines.

9. (original) The die insert according to Claim 5 wherein said textured surface depressions are achieved by acid etching of the insert.

10. (Currently Amended) The die insert according to claim 5 wherein said textured surface on said second face forming indicia comprises ~~a pattern of a definable image a logo or drawing.~~

11. (canceled)

12. A die insert for use in pipe string handling apparatus, having generally parallel first and second faces on opposite sides, said die insert comprising;

a) said die insert with a first of the faces textured with projecting teeth for gripping pipe surfaces; and

b) the second face textured with surface depressions created to displace metal upward in the ~~vivinity~~ vicinity of the depression to present a small elevated surface accumulation of such limited effective collective load bearing area that the raised metal will be imbedded into the surface of the insert supporting surfaces, when subjected to a preselected amount of force perpendicular to said second face, to reduce the tendency for the insert to slide on the insert support surfaces and create indicia on the insert support surfaces.

13. (original) The die insert according to Claim 12 wherein said textured surface depressions are more than one one-thousandth of an inch deep.

14. (original) The die insert according to Claim 12 wherein said textured surface depressions comprise a plurality of generally transverse relief patterns, the relief representing a surface depression of more than one thousandths inch.

15. (original) The die insert according to Claim 12 wherein said textured surface depressions are achieved by a plurality of generally transverse scribe lines.

16. (original) The die insert according to Claim 12 wherein said textured surface depressions are achieved by acid etching of the insert.

(canceled)
17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)
